

Most Students Approve School Dress Codes

By Nancy Gilbert
The Youth Service

Teens may say they want to have their own way, but they still want some authority to set the pace—when it comes to school dress codes anyway.

All told, 60 per cent of those students who reported a dress code in effect in their schools, told us recently that they approved the measure. And one-quarter of those boys and girls who aren't now governed by a dress code would like to be.

"Our school would look like a pig pen without it," says Rex Emmans, 15, of Granges, Ind. "Without a dress code, some students would be very extravagant and way out," says Donna Millikan, 15, of Bedford, Iowa.

Other young people argue that once a student enters high school, he should be free to decide on and wear what he wants. As Arthur Beareyent, 16, of Hamden, Conn., puts it, "You don't go to school to dress but to learn."

His theory didn't sit well with the majority of the students. In fact, 58 per cent of the girls and 45 per cent of the fellows say that dress definitely affects in-school behavior. "If kids dress comfortably, they study; if dressed foolishly, they act that way," notes John Bazemore, 18, of Leeds, Ala. "Besides the fact that it's difficult to study with so much of the girls' anatomy being revealed, it's also true that if you dress great, you feel great and if you feel great, you do better in school," adds Tom [name obscured], Fla.

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What Young People Think



ty suspend kids for their dress harms student-teacher relations. People who wear odd things are usually thought odd by most students, so if they want to look like a fool it's their problem," comments Sue Russell, 17, of Spokane, Wash.

That's perhaps why many stu-

dents favor a student-written dress code. "Students know what's in and out and they can govern their own dress best," says Louis Hogan, 18, of Dav-
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